HAM RAG

Rockford Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Visit our website for more club and area ham information in the Rockford area at ***http://rara.tripod.com***

October 2004

Presidents Log October 2004

It is that time of year for elections. For the most part we have people running for all positions, and in a couple of cases more than one. As I write this, we do not have anyone running for secretary, and we DO need one. Please consider or reconsider the possibility of running for office (other positions can use more candidates as well) and especially secretary. It is not a hard position and you get to have fun with the other members on the board. What, did I say the board had fun? Sure we do. It is fun to get together with others also interested in amateur radio and try to plan events that RARA will do throughout the year.

I need a volunteer to help plan our January banquet for 2005. If you would like to assist, please give me a call. It won't take much time, mostly helping to choose the restaurant where we will hold the event and help plan what choices of food we will have. That and accepting phone calls from those that are signing up. Please give me a call if you want to help. More than one is OK too!

Since I am writing this while out of town, I do not have all my notes, so I will leave it short this time. I hope to see you all at the meeting.

Gene - WB9MMM

The next meeting is at
7:00 PM October 8, 2004

The program for this month's meeting will be:

Open Forum Night
Election of Officers

Saint Anthony Medical Center
5666 E. State Street Rockford, IL.

To get to the meeting room go to the main entrance - turn right at desk - go to the end of hall to the meeting rooms.

A HAM IN CHARGE OF HAM RADIO AGAIN

For the first time in several years, the part of the Federal Communications Commission that governs amateur radio is headed by a licensed amateur.

According to the FCC, Michael Wilhelm, WS6BR, has been made Chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's Public Safety and Critical Infrastructure Division. Wilhelm replaces former chief D'wana R. Terry, who was promoted to Chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

This month is Election month let your voice be heard.
Go to page 5 for more details.

SCHEDULED DXPEDITIONS
By K9LJN & W9GD

CALL-SIGN	QTH	WHEN	QSL VIA
7W0AD	ALGERIA	NOW TO OCT 9	EA4URE
SU8BHI	EGYPT	NOW TO OCT 12	HA3JB
S79RJ	SEYCHELLES	NOW TO OCT 25	DJ4RJ
S79SO	SEYCHELLES	NOW TO OCT 25	DJ4SO
7Q7HB	MALAWI	NOW TO NOV 30	G0IAS
EL2PM	LIBERIA	NOW TO DEC 31	EI5IF
HF0QF	S. SHETLAND IS.	NOW TO SEPT, 2005	SP7IWA
TT8FT	CHAD	NOW TO SEPT, 2005	F6GYV
TX0C	CHESTER-FIELD IS.	OCT 15-24	DL4XS
XU7ACE	CAMBODIA	OCT 15 TO NOV 5	ES1FB
A5???	BHUTAN	OCT 24 TO NOV 11	F9DK

Recently Heard/Worked DX From the Rockford Area
By K9LJN & W9GD

CALLSIGN	QTH	QSL VIA
4S7QHG	SRI LANKA	JR3QHQ
5X2A	UGANDA	K4ZLE
9L1BTB	SIERRA LEONE	SP7BTB
9U6PM	BURUNDI	HB9DTM
A61Q	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	EA7FTR
D44TT	CAPE VERDI IS.	K1BV
HS1OVH	THAILAND	DIRECT
R1ANC	ANTARCTICA	DL5EBE
S79OA	SEYCHELLES	RN3OA
ST2T	SUDAN	S57DX
SU8BHI	EGYPT	HA3JB
T98LBC	BOSNIA	DL7AFS
YI9GT	IRAQ	SP3GTS
YI9JJC	IRAQ	N5JJC
Z22JE	ZIMBABWE	K3PD
Z38C	MACEDONIA	HA1RS
ZK3DX	TOKELAU	EB2AYV

Operating Tips

If I asked the question: do you know how to properly tune in the station you are trying to contact? You would probably answer: yes, of course, it's pretty simple. Well, maybe it's not quite as simple as you think especially when the signals aren't strong. For instance, how many times have you called CQ and a station answers you slightly (or more) off frequency? I know this happens to me quite a bit (especially during stateside contests like Field Day).

Let's take SSB first. You would think that it is the easiest mode to properly tune in a station, but I find it much more difficult than CW. Listen carefully (have I ever used that phrase before) to the station you want to contact. First tune across his audio signal and find the spot where his voice sounds natural. This is not a nasal high pitched or a rumbling frog like voice (that might also sound like it has a little bit of carrier in it). **Most everyone has preferences for hearing either a high or low sounding voice. This habit must be broken so you now tune for the "natural sounding voice".** Once you have him properly tuned in your transmitted audio signal will also be zero-beat with his.

In CW it is even more important to properly tune in the station you want to contact because of the narrow filters (500 Hz & 250 HZ) used, but the process is extremely simple. **A lot of operator's have never learned the proper tuning technique and they also fall into that same trap as the above operator who has a preference for either a high or low pitched tone**. All you have to do in CW is tune in the station so his received tone matches your transmitter's 700 Hz sidetone. Now he is properly tuned in and you are zero-beat with him. It's that easy!

If you don't zero-beat a station, your transmitted signal will also be off frequency and he may not be able to copy you, especially when his signal is not strong. Good operating technique and a good quality signal all contribute in your favor.

73 & DX, Gary - K9LJN

Rockford Amateur Radio Association
Monthly meeting of the membership
September 10, 2004
St. Anthony Hospital

Members present: 41 present.
RARA President Gene Harlan, WB9MMM called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

Minutes: Secretary Wendy Owano, KC9BCF read the minutes from the August meeting. Chuck Liljegren, WB9UMC moved to accept the minutes as corrected, second by Tim Peterson, KC9DNN, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ reported that the club balance was $4,975.35 as of August 31, 2004. Shari Harlan, N9SH moved to accept the report as presented, second by Larry Snyder, K0HNM, motion carried.

Old Business

OTW: Committee chairman Scott Allshouse, W9SBA reported that the ticket sale details would be in the next Ham Rag. The Board of Directors decided that the club would pay $5/shift for each volunteer toward the cost of dinner at the January Award Banquet and to pay the dinner cost of supervisors and assistants. Thanks to everyone who worked this club fundraiser!

President Harlan thanked all the volunteers that worked on the State Street Mile.

Carl Cacciatore and Bob Davidson, WA9NTT will teach the Technician class at RVC. A General Class will also be offered at RVC.

New Business

Nicholas Lager, KB9SKW showed the group the newly digitized logo for club apparel. More about this will be in the next Ham Rag and at October's meeting.

Sue Peters, KA9GNR asked for help with the Ultra Marathon on Saturday, September 26 at Rock Cut State Park. If this is of interest to you, contact Sue.

One Minute Interest Group Reports

ATV- Gene Harlan reported that the ATV repeater should be up in the next couple of weeks.

Fox Hunt- Nicholas Lager reported that the fox hunt after the August picnic went well.

Recruiter- Bob Davidson reported that he has called about 15 people on his list of local hams and feels that it is beneficial to have one-on-one contact with them to promote ham radio.

DX-HF- Gary Hilker, K9LJN reported that there has been average propagation for this time of the year. The dominant bands are 20 and 40 meters.

ARES- Anyone interested in applying to ARES should contact Sue Peters.

Ham Fests: Grays Lake and the W9DXCC convention will be September 18 and 19. Peoria SuperFest will be 9/17-0/19.

Motion to adjourn by Larry Snyder, second by Shari Harlan, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Owano, RARA Secretary

The monthly Board of Directors Meeting are held at Saint Anthony Medical Center 5666 E. State St. Rockford, IL on the last Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. *Except for December*.

RARA Officers for 2004

President: Gene Harlan WB9MMM
Vice President: Scott Allshouse W9SBA
Secretary: Wendy Owano KC9BCF
Treasurer: Carl Cacciatore W9TQ
Director: Dan Hunt KC9ATR
Director: Gary Hilker K9LJN
Director: Nicolas Lager KB9SKW
Director: Larry Snyder K0HNM
Newsletter and Web Site:
John Auerswald KA9SOG

W9ATN Repeater Update

Want to get on ATV? We are getting closer to getting the repeater on air thanks to St. Anthony Medical Center for providing a repeater site. They have offered a place on their building pending a field trial to make sure that we don't interfere with any of the hospitals medical or communications equipment. By the end of this month we hope to have the temporary setup installed and operational. When the system gets the final approval then a more permanent installation will be done.

The repeater is now complete and most of the testing that can be done off site has been done for basic operation. We still need to purchase a 435 receiver for a secondary low power input, various odds and ends to complete the installation, and a camera remote control system to have at the repeater site so people can see the view from the repeater site. The camera would also double as a weather observation during severe weather. Other options will be added as funds come available.

The repeater will have an input of 1253 Mhz and an output of 421.25 Mhz (channel 57 on a cable ready tv). In the future we are planning to put in 1.2 Ghz to 2.4 Ghz links to widen the receive range beyond the Rockford area to better serve surrounding community's. This may help in keep the costs down and allowing more amateurs wanting to get into ATV to do so.

To achieve the initial money for the start up costs, dues have been set at $50. The dues go totally to the ATV fund and you will become a member of ATN-Illinois. The money DOES NOT count towards any regular RARA membership dues. Money will be kept separate from any other RARA fund by the RARA-ATV account. We hope that regular members will continue to support RARA in their normal fashion. It may well be that after a couple of years at $50, that we will be in a maintenance mode and will be able to reduce the ATN dues. That will be up to you, the membership of ATN.

We hope to have a portable system soon so that we hope will be able to do site surveys to help people find out what equipment they may need to be able to access the repeater from their home QTH. With the present configuration you will need a 1.2 Ghz ATV transmitter, a 421.25 ATV receiver (channel 57 on a cable ready tv on an outside antenna), camera, monitor, a video Id'er (a white card with call letters in black will work), 1.2 Ghz and 425 Mhz antennas, and finally a 2 meter radio set to 144.34 for talk around. However you can still use the ATV audio channel.

We are also planning to offer a certificate to anyone receiving the ATV repeater signal. As proof, they could submit a video tape (we can return it) along with the report. This offer would be to anyone, even non hams.

So, if you would like to join the RARA-ATV/ATN-Illinois please make the check out to RARA-ATV and send to:

Gene Harlan
5931 Alma Dr.
Rockford, IL 61108

Thanks for your support of ATN-Illinois and RARA-ATV.

Contact John at ka9sog@arrl.net or Gene at atvq@hampubs.com for any questions about RARA-ATV.

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, October 16, 2004.

Location:
St. Anthony Hospital
5666 E. State Street
Rockford, Il

Exams will be held in the St Francis Room (just right of the front entrance after you enter).

Check-in is from 9:00 AM till 10:30 AM. We require two ID's with your signature on them (one must be a photo ID).
If you are a licensed amateur radio operator bring your original current license and a copy.
If you are using a CSCE for an element credit bring the original and a copy.
(We need to see the originals & keep a photocopy of each document used for element credit.)
The test fee for 2004 is $12.00. Walk-ins welcome.

Contact Information
Randy Scott, W9HL
W9HL@arrl.net
815-877-4328

Have anything or would like to summit an article to be put in the Ham Rag or the website?
Contact me by e-mail at ka9sog@arrl.net and visit http://rara.tripod.com for any late breaking news and information.
Please summit any articles before the 1st of each month.

This issue of the HAMRAG was made possible by their article or photo submissions:
Gary Hilker, K9LJN, Gene Duncan, W9GD, Gene Harlan, WB9MMM, Randy Scott, W9HL, NJDXA, 425DXN, ARRL, Wendy Owano, KC9BCF, QST

New Hams

The Technician Class that was held at Rock Valley Collage is now complete. Two Students have passed the class and have been given memberships in RARA for the rest of 2004.

Joel Acre KC9GPO
Dennis Murray KC9GPP

RARA Election 2004

This is the current ballet for the 2004 RARA election. This ballet can still change up till the moment of the election and more names could be added.

President--Bill Peters, WB9MCZ
Vice President- Tim Peterson, KC9DNN,
Nicholas Lager, KB9SKW
Secretary-no candidate at this time
Treasurer-Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ

For one board seat- Dan Hunt, KC9ATR
Kurt Eversole, KE9NJ

Gene Harlan, WB9MMM, Scott Allshouse W9SBA, and Wendy Owano, KC9BCF are all moving to the board.

If you would like to run for an office. Please let Shari Harlan and Wendy Owano know that you would like to be considered for a office.

We currently are in need for someone to run for the position of club Secretary.

So, let your voice be heard and attend the October meeting and Vote.

Please note that you have to be a member of the club for at least 6 months to be able to vote.

Rockford Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126
Phone: (815) 398-2683
E-Mail: w9axd@arrl.net
Web Site - http://rara.tripod.com

Mailing
Address
Goes Here

Please attend this months meeting for that it is the Election of Officers for 2005.

October 2004

ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO
ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION

Single $30.00 Family $35.00
Senior $15.00 Senior Family $20.00
Student $15.00 HamRag Only $10.00

NAME_____ CALL SIGN_____
ADDRESS_____
CITY_____ STATE_____ ZIP_____
HOME PHONE_____
WORK PHONE_____
EMAIL_____
RENEWAL_____ NEW_____ RETIRED_____
RADIO INTEREST_____
_____
OTHER INTERESTS_____
_____
SUGGESTIONS_____
_____

RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:
ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 8465
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61126

ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION